

WITHIN OUR BORDERS

VOL. 2

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No. 4

Record Bridge Building Project Nears Completion In Alberta

The biggest bridge construction program in Alberta's history has provided the Province with 124 new timber bridges and two new steel bridges since April 1, of this year. In addition 28 steel bridges have been repaired while repair work has been finished on 53 timber bridges.

Steel bridges have been constructed over the Big Smoky River at Woodwin Crossing and over Pipestone Creek at Gwynne. The bridge at Woodwin Crossing gives motorists and truckers a year round access to Alaska Highway and Grande Prairie Country. It has replaced the ferry previously operated there since 1911. The Gwynne bridge provides a modern traffic bridge for the main highway between Wetaskiwin and Camrose.

New steel bridges will be constructed at Cluny over the Bow River and over the Red Deer River at Empress. Construction recently started on a 950-foot steel bridge over the North Saskatchewan River at Elk Point. This will be a great boon to the surrounding country. At the present time most traffic in that vicinity moves east and west. When the Elk Point bridge is finished, next spring, traffic will tend to develop in a north-south direction.

Bridge appropriations for 1949 allotted \$1,000,000 for steel bridge construction and \$750,000 for timber bridge work. It is anticipated that next year's bridge program in the Province will be as extensive as the 1949 project. There is a large backlog of bridge construction and repair work to be done. This will demand big expenditures for the next few years. The backlog was caused during the war years when it was almost impossible to obtain the manpower or equipment to carry out the work.

Considerable work is being done replacing obsolete light narrow bridges with modern structures designed to carry the high speed heavy-loaded traffic of today and keep pace with the large highway program of the Province.

New bridges are constructed to replace ferries on a priority system. When a ferry reaches the top of the list in traffic count it is replaced by a bridge. Two ferries will be replaced this year, leaving 54 still in operation.

There is a bridge crew working in each of the 11 engineering districts in the Province. In addition there are five crews specializing in various types of bridge work who move to the different projects. About 167 men, including the foremen are employed by the bridge building department. This number will be boosted to about 200 when the winter program on large bridges gets underway. * * *



"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used. Any material used is for immediate republication.

Correspondence concerning the publication should be addressed to the Deputy Minister, Department of Economic Affairs, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

Legislative Buildings Souvenir

Excavation work on the Alberta Legislative Buildings at Edmonton was started in August 1907. Two years later, His Excellency the Right Honorable Albert Henry George Grey, Governor General of Canada, officiated at the laying of the cornerstone. These facts, along with other information, are contained in a new souvenir booklet of the Legislative Buildings.

Each day many visitors to Alberta and Edmonton tour the buildings and receive a copy of this booklet. A feature of the booklet is its pictures which include present exterior and interior shots, a construction picture along with those of other government offices.

When visiting the Legislative Buildings be sure to pick up your copy of this booklet at the information counter just inside the main entrance. The booklet presented by the Department of Economic Affairs as a service, is free of charge. * * *

Hunting Regulations For 1949 Provide Extended Seasons

Shooting seasons on ducks and geese and also for upland birds have been extended for the 1949 season in Alberta. For the hunting of migratory birds the Province has been divided into three zones; and into two zones for upland birds.

Migratory bird hunting—ducks, geese—may be conducted from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset as follows:

1. North of the Athabasca River and Township 72, Sept 10 to Nov. 5, inclusive.
2. South of the Athabasca River and Township 72 and north of highways 11 and 12 through Rocky Mountain House, Red Deer, Lacombe, Stettler, Coronation, September 17 to November 12, inclusive.
3. South of highways 11 and 12 Sept. 24 to Nov. 19.

Seasons on upland birds allow shooting from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, with the exception of cock pheasants, for which the daily starting time is 10:00 a.m. Here are the seasons:

1. In that part of the Province lying north of the North Saskatchewan River and highway 16, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Spruce Partridge and Hungarian Partridge may be taken from Oct. 5 to Nov. 12.

2. South of the North Saskatchewan River and highway 16, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Spruce Partridge and Hungarian Partridge may be taken from October 5 to Oct. to Oct. 29.

Blue Grouse may be hunted west of Willow Creek and highway No. 2 from Macleod to Carway, from Sept. 10 to Oct. 4.

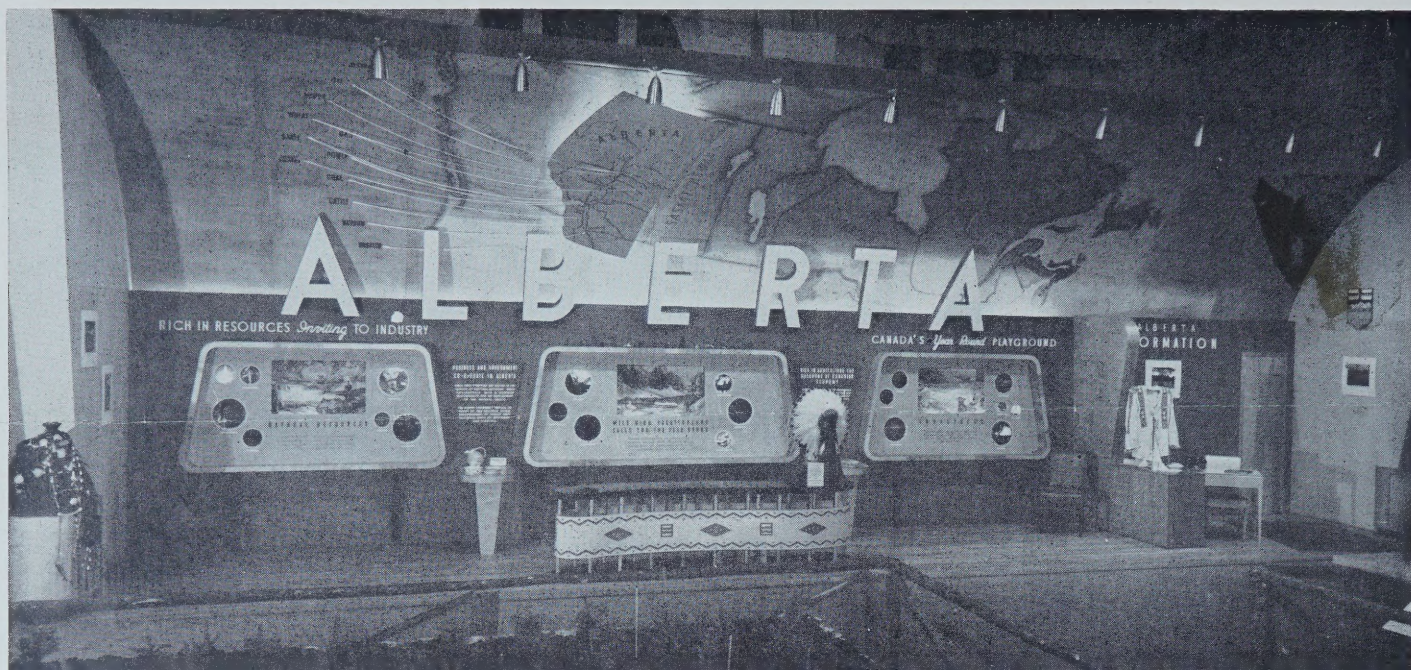
Ring-neck Cock Pheasants may be taken north of the Saskatchewan River and highway 16 from Oct. 5 to Oct. 29, and south of the North Saskatchewan River and highway No. 16 they may also be hunted from Oct. 5 to October 29, shooting to commence at 10:00 each morning.

This year all shotguns used in the hunting of both migratory and upland birds must be permanently plugged or altered, where necessary in order to reduce the capacity of the gun to not more than three shells at any time in the magazine and chamber combined.

Shooting permits can be obtained from the Fish and Game Branch, Department of Lands and Forests, Administration Buildings, Edmonton, or at sporting goods dealers, rural treasury offices, and games officers. * * *

In This Issue

- Record Bridge Program . . .
- Hunting Regulations . . .
- C.N.E. Display . . .
- Alberta Photographed . . .
- Alberta's Harvest . . .
- Safety In Industry . . .



Alberta's new display "window," which has just completed its first showing at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, is designed to show observers the Province's tourist attractions, natural resources and industries. The display will be shown next at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto. Next season it will be shown at the Pacific National Exhibition, Vancouver, the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton Exhibition.

The display measures 47 feet in length and features three large panels. The centre panel, which is indicated in the above picture, is devoted to Alberta's tourist attractions. The remaining two panels depict the Province's natural resources and industries. The display is 15 feet high and 12 feet deep.

Each panel features an artist's sketch symbolizing the industry it represents. Included in each panel are transparencies indicating the activities and products of the respective industry.

Accompanying each panel is a descriptive text concerning the present wealth and potential of the industry.

Other features of the display are designed to maintain the east-west friendships so evident during the Calgary Stampede. In line with the western spirit are exhibits of Indian head dresses and authentic Indian beaded costumes along with a western style saddle, property of Herman Linder, of Cardston, president of the Canadian Stampede Managers' Association. Mr. Linder is the holder of many riding championships including world, American and Canadian titles.

Also on display in the Alberta booth are small sculptured likenesses of Alberta wild life. These were made by Professor W. Rowan of the University of Alberta's zoology department.

An information booth located in the display was operated 12 hours daily at the C.N.E. showing and large crowds displayed keen interest.

Film and Photographic Branch "Sells" Alberta With Pictures

Millions of words have been expounded on Alberta's tourist attractions, natural resources and industrial possibilities during past years. Now these attractions will be portrayed through the media of still photographs and motion pictures. This work is being done by the Film and Photographic Branch, Department of Economic Affairs.

By the end of the year government photographers will have printed about 12,000 photographs and close to 12,000 feet of motion picture film.

During the past 18 months, the photographic branch has been greatly expanded. It now comprises a director, three photographers, an artist, four film clerks and a stenographer. The branch has a screening room with a seating capacity for about 30 persons, a large film library, two offices and a modern dark room. A second dark room will be added soon.

Principal work of the photographers is coverage of important functions, taking pictures of new industrial developments, obtaining new and different scenic shots of Alberta's beauty spots. These photographs are made available to newspapers, news services and other interested organizations.

Work of the cameramen is interesting and often rugged. Recently one cameraman was in the south portion of the Province in the Macleod district taking colored motion picture shots for a travelogue and stills for various departments. At the same time another photographer was about 700 miles away taking still photos and black and white movies of the oilsands project at Bitumont.

Approximately 1,800 films are now catalogued in the film library. These films are used for educational purposes by various government departments. Shipping and maintenance is the responsibility of the film branch.

Two colored sound films produced by the branch will be released soon. They are: "Autumn in Alberta," various scenes and activities in the Province; and "Green Acres," an irrigation film showing types of irrigation and crops. Four other films are now being produced. They concern the district health nurse, mental hospitals, an industrial film and a tourist picture.

All camera work on the films is done by members of the branch. The scripts are written by staff members. The sound work is done by a commercial company where a nationally-known commentator does the narration.

Considerable success has been enjoyed by the branch regarding color tinting of stills with oil. This work is performed by the film and photographic branch artist. * * *

Below Average Crop Harvest Forecast For Alberta Farmers

The farmers of Alberta are working from early dawn until dark these weeks but due to a general fairly poor crop growing season they are not bringing in the lush harvest which this Province often has produced in past years.

Farmers of the central section of Alberta are the hardest hit. The crop yield in this area will be far below the long term average. Northern Alberta farmers will enjoy better than average yields. While farmers in the south will harvest and thresh only average crops. An estimate places the provincial yield at 60 percent of the average.

Wheat is expected to give about 11 bushels per acre. The average wheat crop is 17.4 bushels per acre. It is estimated that oats will run at 24 bushels per acre compared with the long term average of 34 bushels. The 18 bushels per acre anticipated for barley is nine bushels below the average yield. In central and northern Alberta the seed crops of clover and alfalfa will be average but considerably below the bumper crops of 1948.

In addition to light crops Alberta farmers can expect low returns. Anticipated return will be about 50 per cent of last year's, resulting from low-grading of wheat and other grains. The below-average quality is attributed to a heavy mixture of green heads caused by excessive growth. This situation is particularly common in the central section of the Province. A similar condition existed in many parts of Alberta 12 years ago. It is caused by a long dry period through the spring and early summer followed in the late summer by heavy rains.

Cutting in the Peace River country has reached the 40 per cent mark while that in the south has reached about 70 percent. The central portion of the Province, which extends from Westlock to Olds, is about 15 percent cut.

Alberta harvesters are not plagued by a shortage of workers this year. There was a fair supply of local workers which was augmented by almost 500 men from Ontario. In previous years the average importation of harvest workers from eastern Canada was about 1,000 men.

Although harvesting is late throughout all of central Alberta it is normal in the Peace River district and in the south country.

It is believed there will be sufficient coarse grain to feed livestock through the winter but care will have to be taken. The outlook for May is about the same. There will be enough if all farmers save and plan for winter feeding. * * *



Testing for dust in a monumental plant . . .



. . . Nurses in industry great aid to safety
Alberta Government Photograph—Jones.

Department Reduces Hazards To Workmen

Health and Safety of 150,000 Albertans is Responsibility of Accident Prevention Department

The Accident Prevention Department of the Workmen's Compensation Board assumes responsibility for the health and safety of approximately 150,000 industrial workers in Alberta. All accidents are checked closely to determine their cause and methods which should be employed in preventing similar ones in future. The objective of the department is to locate and correct health hazards and unsafe working conditions or careless practices which may result in sickness or injury. Surveys are made where necessary, using the services of an Industrial Hygiene Engineer in locating and correcting conditions which may affect the health of industrial workers.

Safety regulations issued by the board require employers to provide guards over all moving parts of machinery and equipment to prevent workmen being injured. The department works in co-operation with employers and workmen through safety committees and with inspectors employed by the various departments of Government.

Most Hazards Known

From experience in checking accidents and surveys which have been carried on over a period of years, the department is familiar with the possible hazards in all industries. Where necessary, accidents are investigated by the department to determine if working conditions were responsible for the injury or sickness and to find out what should be done to correct the specific unsafe condition.

Where it is found necessary to issue new regulations applying to an industry or revise those in effect, the proposed changes are usually placed before the workmen and employers in the industry for their opinion and approval. They then are published in the Alberta Gazette by order of the board and become law. The department is endeavoring to secure the co-operation of employers and workmen in the observance of safety requirements in industry, acquainting employers and workmen with the benefits occurring to both where an active safety and health program is organized and maintained.

Safety Activities

To encourage employers to give greater attention to organized safety activities, the board has established a merit and demerit system applying to employers paying the higher assessment rates. Those who have a good accident record and comply with all the board's safety and first-aid requirements earn a refund or a return of part of their assessment.

The board requires all employers having 10 or more workmen to have a Safety Committee of at least two persons. Two safety bulletins for posting are provided to all Safety Committees monthly along with letters telling employers and workmen something of the board's activities. The art section of the Accident Prevention Department prepares and produces all safety literature. These bulletins convey such messages as: "Think!—Be careful today and be at work tomorrow." The illustrated self-explanatory cartoons are a safety message to workmen in picture form.

Safety Committees are required to make regular inspections of their particular operations and see that the board's safety requirements are obeyed. Active safety committees are making a worthwhile contribution to safety in many industries.

600 Safety Groups

Over 600 committees are reporting to the board monthly, these reports coming from logging camps, sawmills, building and construction operations, oilwells, factories and many other places of employment.

Groups of employers or supervisory officials in the different classifications have also organized safety committees and are supplied with literature and information monthly showing their individual accident experience as well as that of their particular industry. These committees have been successful in bringing about a substantial improvement in their accident experience.

One of the most active safety organizations in the province is that of the packing plants, safety meetings being held every two months. Grain elevator operators also have a central safety committee carrying on work among the operators of the 1,600 grain elevators in the province. During the winter months meetings of committees and of supervisory officials are held monthly both in Edmonton and Calgary where speakers outline the methods employed in many operations in developing and maintaining interest in safety and first-aid work.

A number of employers also have full time safety supervisors who are doing excellent work in organizing safety and first-aid activities in their respective operations. The department works closely with these officials and helps to train them in carrying out their duties.

Nurses Required

Regulations require employers having 200 or more workmen to have a graduate nurse in charge of first-aid work. Injured employees, therefore, receive immediate and adequate first-aid and continuous treatment making it unnecessary for them to lay off work in order to secure medical attention for minor injuries. Approximately 98 per cent of all injuries met with by workmen employed in packing plants are treated by the nurse.

With a view to training workmen in first-aid, especially those employed at outside points such as lumber camps, the board conducts a safety and first-aid school semi-annually where instruction in safety and first-aid is given.

Protecting the health of workmen and providing for their safety have made necessary a considerable amount of research work with a view to locating and correcting hazards. One of the greatest health hazards the department has had to combat is that of silica dust.

Dust Controlled

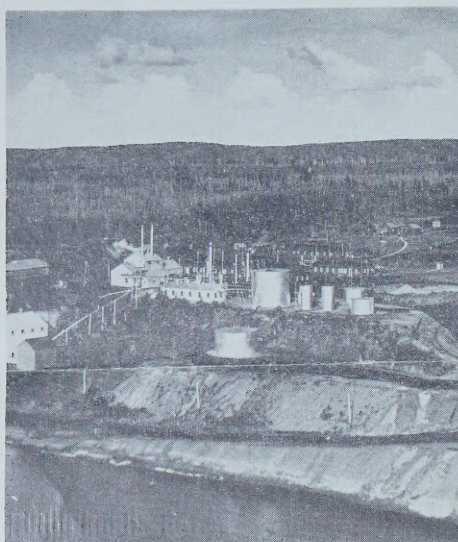
Most Alberta rock contains a very high percentage of this dust. It is controlled through the use of water, ventilation, or the wearing of respirators, and, in some cases, a change in the method of mining or handling.

Some of the most common accident hazards are power saws, and all forms of wood working machines. In wood operations, falling timber, or limbs are responsible for most fatal accidents. The wearing of hard hats by lumber workers will prevent a number of fatalities annually.

Cave-ins are responsible for most fatal injuries where ditching operations are being done. Rock or coal falling from the roof as well as being run over by mine cars account for most fatal accidents occurring in the coal mining industry.

Safety regulations issued by the board applying to the many industries in the province are being complied with to a greater extent, thereby making for greater safety in the industry. * * *

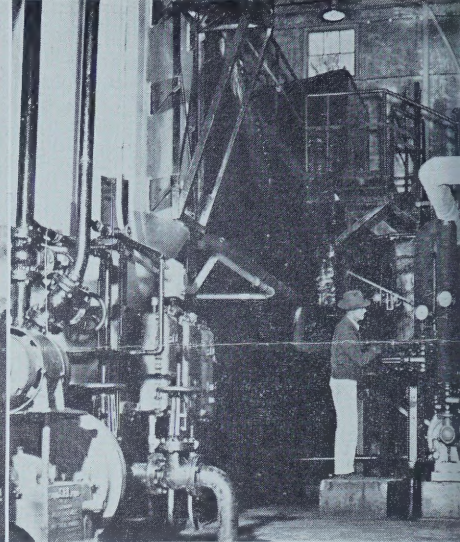
A WITHIN OUR BORDERS PICTURE PAGE



Aerial View of Plant . . .



Mining Sand from Open Pit



. . . Separation Plant Interior



Dr. George Hodgson, Testing. . .

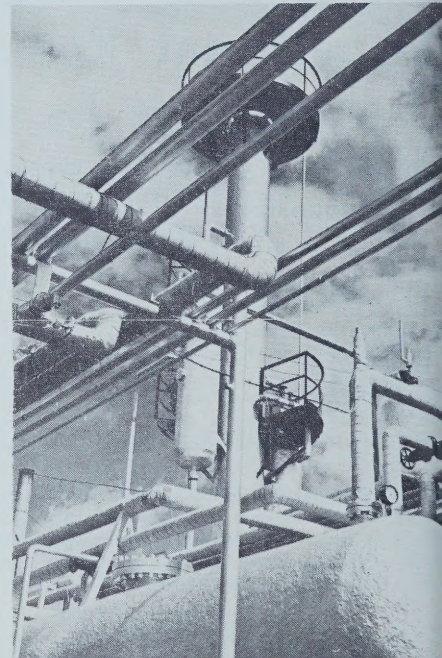
Bitumont Experiments To Be Continued

Principal purpose of experiments being conducted at the Alberta government experimental pilot plant at Bitumont, Alberta, is to prove the economic feasibility of commercial extraction of oil from the miles of oil sands situated along the Athabasca River.

It may be known by next year whether or not extraction of crude oil from the famous McMurray oilsands is economically possible. Feasibility of extracting oil from this "world's greatest" reserve has been proved but what remains to be ascertained is whether this oil can be extracted on an economic basis to allow its competition with oil from other sources on the commercial market. Regarding the potential oil reserve in the deposit geologists have said there is sufficient oil to supply the needs of North America for hundreds of years.

Recently a party of two cabinet ministers and 39 other members of the legislature inspected the plant where they saw crude oil being produced at the rate of 350 barrels daily. Operators of the plant have expressed optimism concerning possibilities of the project's eventual success.

Test runs will be resumed next spring when further intensive experiments will be conducted. It also is planned to make winter tests runs following next summer's operations. * * *



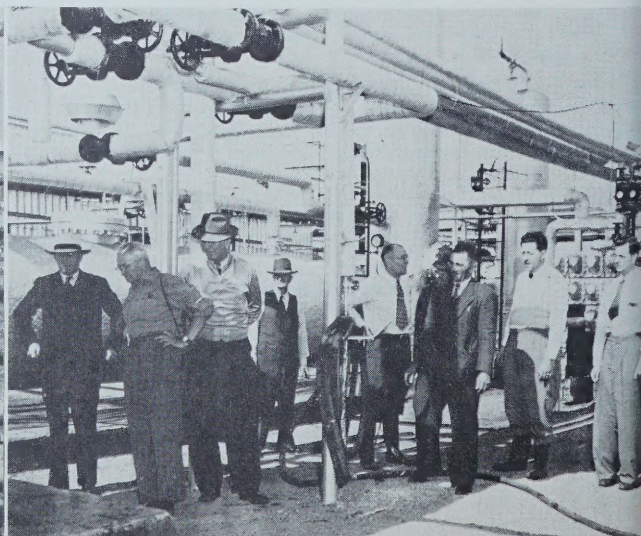
. . . The refinery cracking unit



W. Fotheringham, Hon. Dr. J. L. Robinson, minister of Industries and Labor, W. E. Adkins, and R. A. Andison, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, during visit.



Dr. Karl Clark,
Alberta Research Council.



Left to right—Hon. Peter Dawson, speaker of the house; A. E. Fee; H. E. DeBo; N. E. Cook; Hon. Ivan Casey, minister of education; Peter Chaba, F. Colborne, all M.L.A.'s, and W. Fotheringham inspect plant.

—Alberta Government Photographs—Ro

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